Production Capacity of Copper

626. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present annual Copper production capacity of India;

(b) what is the expected capacity addition in the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the total Copper import made in the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The present annual copper production capacity of India is 3,47,500 Tonnes.

(b) No further capacity addition is expected in the year 2001-2002.

(c) As per the information furnished by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total import of copper and copper products including alloys during April, 2000 to March, 2001 was valued at Rs. 1057.61 crores.

Land Dispute Cases Pending before BCCL

†627. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases related to the land dispute, pending till the end of the year 2001, before the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL);

(b) the area of the lands falling under dispute and the quantum of coal reserve lying therein;

(c) the reasons for the pendency of these cases and the details regarding the issues of employment and compensation; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There are 28 land dispute cases pending in BCCL at the end of 2001.

(b) The areas involved is 870.82 acres and the estimated quantity of coal reserve under this land is 100.06 million tonnes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The reasons for their pendency mainly are as under:

i) Excessive demand for employment.
ii) Disputes amongst the land owners/losers themselves with regard to nomination of their dependents for employment.
iii) Cases in the civil courts taking their own time where judicial scrutiny is involved.

(d) For early disposal of these cases negotiation as far as practicable are being held with the parties in association with the district administration and public representatives.

Privatisation of coal mines

628. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are stepping towards privatising the coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lease coal mines to former colliery owners having experience in coal mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government have taken steps to open the coal sector for private participation. Accordingly the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been introduced in the Parliament with the following objectives;

i) To allow Indian companies *i.e.* companies registered in India to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and
ii) To engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

(c) to (e) As per the Amendment Bill the following agencies can do non-captive coal mining: